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Special to Billings Gazette/plus art
by DAVE GUFFEY
UM Sports Information Director

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana football team has its Grizzly nickname -- it also has its own "bear."

This bear is in the human form of Billings West High School product Pat Curry.

Curry, a 6-5½, 241-pound junior, not only has the dimensions of a bear, but as his teammates and coaches will attest, he does one outstanding imitation of a Grizzly.

"Rooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooar," can be heard from the defensive end's mouth during warmups prior to games, and in practice, when the mood strikes him.

"The Eastern Montana bear (Curry) is a big man in the University of Montana defensive front," said Grizzly coach Larry Donovan. "He was part of the group that held Weber State's offense to 95 yards rushing, and also held the heralded Cedric Minter of Boise State to his lowest rushing yardage of the season."

Curry can also play football. He currently has 18 tackles. "Pat has come a long way, along with Pat Norwood (Billings Senior H.S.)," Donovan said. "Norwood has been battling a bad back, and playing well, despite playing in pain."

Donovan also praised the play of former Billings Senior H.S. team captain Roger Smith, who is fighting for a starting berth at outside linebacker.

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"Roger is improving every day," Donovan said.

"The big surprise is Brad Dantic," Donovan said. "He has the longest touchdown in the Big Sky (63 yards against Weber State) this season, and is averaging 23.4 yards per catch. His speed has added a lot to our offense."

Dantic, a 5-9, 160-pound freshman was a football and track standout at Laurel High School. Thus far this year he has caught seven passes for 164 yards and a TD. His father, Bob, played for the Grizzlies in the early 1950s.

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